



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

***Raised Bill No. 1399***

LCO No. 4717

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL BUS EMISSIONS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 14-164c of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (c) The commissioner shall adopt regulations in accordance with  
4 chapter 54 to implement the provisions of this section. Such  
5 regulations shall include provision for a periodic inspection of air  
6 pollution control equipment and compliance or waiver with exhaust  
7 emission standards or compliance or waiver with on-board diagnostic  
8 standards or other standards defined by the Commissioner of  
9 Environmental Protection and approved by the Administrator of the  
10 United States Environmental Protection Agency, compliance or waiver  
11 with, air pollution control system integrity standards defined by the  
12 Commissioner of Environmental Protection and compliance or waiver  
13 with purge system standards defined by the Commissioner of  
14 Environmental Protection. Such regulations shall apply to all motor  
15 vehicles registered or which will be registered in this state except: (1)  
16 Vehicles having a gross weight of more than ten thousand pounds  
17 other than school buses; (2) vehicles powered by electricity; (3) bicycles

18 with motors attached; (4) motorcycles; (5) vehicles operating with a  
19 temporary registration; (6) vehicles manufactured twenty-five or more  
20 years ago; (7) new vehicles at the time of initial registration; (8)  
21 vehicles registered but not designed primarily for highway use; (9)  
22 farm vehicles, as defined in subsection (q) of section 14-49; (10)  
23 antique, rare or special interest motor vehicles, as defined in section 14-  
24 1; [(11) diesel-powered type II school buses; or (12)] or (11) a vehicle  
25 operated by a licensed dealer or repairer either to or from a location of  
26 the purchase or sale of such vehicle or for the purpose of obtaining an  
27 official emissions or safety inspection. Not later than October 1, 2002,  
28 such regulations shall exempt from the periodic inspection  
29 requirement any vehicle manufactured four or less years ago, provided  
30 that such exemption shall lapse upon a finding by the Administrator of  
31 the United States Environmental Protection Agency or by the Secretary  
32 of the United States Department of Transportation that such  
33 exemption causes the state to violate applicable federal environmental  
34 or transportation planning requirements. Notwithstanding any  
35 provisions of this subsection, the commissioner may require an initial  
36 emissions inspection and compliance or waiver prior to registration of  
37 a new motor vehicle. If the Commissioner of Environmental Protection  
38 finds that it is necessary to inspect motor vehicles which are exempt  
39 under subdivision (1) or (4) of this subsection, or motor vehicles that  
40 are four or less model years of age in order to achieve compliance with  
41 federal law concerning emission reduction requirements, the  
42 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in accordance  
43 with the provisions of chapter 54, to require the inspection of  
44 motorcycles, designated motor vehicles having a gross weight of more  
45 than ten thousand pounds or motor vehicles four or less model years  
46 of age.

47 Sec. 2. Section 14-277 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
48 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

49 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (c), inclusive,  
50 of section 14-242, the operator of any school bus, when about to bring

51 [his] a bus to a stop to receive or discharge passengers, shall signal his  
 52 intention to do so by causing the flashing signal lights to be displayed  
 53 for not less than fifty feet before [he brings] bringing the bus to a stop  
 54 so as to be clearly visible to the operator of any oncoming or  
 55 overtaking vehicle or motor vehicle, except that the operator of any  
 56 school bus equipped with amber flashing signal lights shall signal such  
 57 intention by causing the amber flashing signal lights to be displayed  
 58 for not less than one hundred feet before [he brings] bringing the bus  
 59 to a stop. The operator of any school bus, having brought [his] a  
 60 vehicle to a stop, shall not open the door to receive or discharge  
 61 passengers until all vehicles approaching from the front and  
 62 overtaking from the rear have stopped in compliance with the  
 63 indicated signal to stop. The operator of any school bus equipped with  
 64 amber flashing signal lights and a stop semaphore, having brought  
 65 [his] a vehicle to a stop, shall cause the red flashing signal lights to be  
 66 displayed and the stop semaphore to be extended and shall not open  
 67 the door until all vehicles approaching from the front and overtaking  
 68 from the rear have stopped in compliance with the indicated signal to  
 69 stop. After all passengers are safely aboard or discharged and safely  
 70 off the highway, the operator shall extinguish the stop lights and the  
 71 operator of any school bus equipped with a stop semaphore shall  
 72 withdraw the stop semaphore. [He] The operator may then permit all  
 73 standing traffic to pass before resuming forward progress. While such  
 74 school bus is in motion the doors shall remain closed at all times and  
 75 all passengers shall be required to remain seated. No operator of any  
 76 school bus shall stop [his] the vehicle on the main traveled portion of  
 77 the highway to receive or discharge passengers when existing highway  
 78 shoulders or adequate highway width is available or where curbs, bus  
 79 stops or special facilities exist. No such operator may receive or  
 80 discharge any passenger on a highway with separate roadways unless  
 81 (1) a boarding passenger may reach the bus stop and a discharged  
 82 passenger may reach his or her residence or other destination without  
 83 crossing such highway, or (2) [he] a passenger stops the bus at a  
 84 location having a traffic control signal or crossing guard. The operator

85 of a school bus shall turn off the engine of the vehicle if the engine has  
86 been idle for a period of greater than five minutes. Any person who  
87 violates any provision of this section shall, for a first offense, be  
88 deemed to have committed an infraction and for each subsequent  
89 offense shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than  
90 five hundred dollars.

***Statement of Purpose:***

To require school bus operators to shut off their vehicles if the engine has been idling for a period of greater than five minutes.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*